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# Pullback attractors for non-autonomous reaction–diffusion equation with infinite delays in $C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)$ or $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}}(\Omega)$

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## Abstract

In this paper, the well-posedness for the non-autonomous reaction–diffusion equation with infinite delays on a bounded domain is established. The existence of pullback attractors for the process in  $C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)$  and  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}}(\Omega)$  is proved, respectively. The noncompact Kuratowski measure is applied to check the asymptotic compactness.

**Keywords:** Pullback attractor; Reaction–diffusion equation; Infinite delays; Nonautonomous equation

## 1 Introduction

Let  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  be a smooth bounded domain. Consider the long-time behavior of the following non-autonomous nonlinear reaction–diffusion equation:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \Delta u + \lambda u = f(t, u_t) + g(t, x), & \text{in } [\tau, +\infty) \times \Omega, \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, & t > \tau, \\ u(t, x) = \phi(t - \tau, x), & t \in (-\infty, \tau], x \in \Omega, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $\lambda \geq 0$ , and we have the nonlinear term

$$f(t, u_t(t, x)) = F(t, u(t - \rho(t), x)) + \int_{-\infty}^0 G(t, z, u(t + z, x)) dz.$$

Suppose there exist two positive constants  $k_1, k_2$ , and three positive scalar functions  $m_0(\cdot), e^{-r\gamma\rho(t)}m_1(t), m_2(\cdot)e^{-\gamma z}$  which are all in  $L^1((-\infty, 0], \mathbb{R}^+)$  such that the functions  $F \in C(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R}), \rho \in C(\mathbb{R}; [0, +\infty))$ , and  $G \in C(\mathbb{R} \times (-\infty, 0] \times \mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R})$  satisfy

$$|F(t, v)|^r \leq |k_1|^r + k_2^r e^{-r\gamma\rho(t)} |v|^r, \quad \forall t, v \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (2)$$

$$|G(t, z, v)| \leq m_0(z) + m_1(z)|v|, \quad \forall t, v \in \mathbb{R}, z \in (-\infty, 0], \quad (3)$$

$$|F(t, v) - F(t, v)| \leq C_1 e^{-\gamma\rho(t)} |v - v|, \quad \forall t, v, v \in \mathbb{R}, z \in (-\infty, 0], \quad (4)$$

$$|G(t, z, v) - G(t, z, v)| \leq C_2 m_2(z) |v - v|, \quad \forall t, v, v \in \mathbb{R}, z \in (-\infty, 0], \quad (5)$$

and the non-autonomous term  $g \in L^r_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\Omega))$  ( $r > 1$ ) satisfies

$$\sup_{\tau \leq t} e^{-\delta t} \int_{-\infty}^{\tau} \|g(s)\|_X^r e^{\delta s} ds < \infty, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}, \tag{6}$$

for each  $\delta \in \{\alpha, \alpha - L, r(\delta - \eta)\}$ , where  $\alpha, L, \delta, \eta$  will be given in Lemma 4.1, the local  $r$ -power integral is the Bochner integral. We will denote  $m_0 = \int_{-\infty}^0 m_0(s) ds$ ,  $m_1 = \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{-\gamma s} m_1(s) ds$ , and  $m_2 = \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{-\gamma s} m_2(s) ds$ .

Let  $C_{\gamma, X}$  denote the Banach space  $C((-\infty, 0]; X)$  endowed with the norm

$$\|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, X}} = \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|\phi(z)\|_X, \quad \gamma > 0,$$

where  $X$  is  $L^r(\Omega)$  or  $W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ .

Given  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}, T > \tau$  and a function  $u : (-\infty, T] \rightarrow X$ . For each  $t \in [\tau, T], u_t : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow X$  denotes the function defined by  $u_t(z) = u(t + z)$  for  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$ . We are interested in the initial condition  $\phi \in C_{\gamma, X}$ .

Retarded differential equations have been used to research many physical systems with non-instant transmission phenomena such as internet data transmission, other memory processes, and specially biological motivations (e.g. species growth or incubating time on disease models [1, 2]). For autonomous systems with delays, the existence of solutions or global attractors has been studied widely in [3–5] and their qualitative theory has also been well-established. For autonomous systems with variable bounded or unbounded delays, the classical theory extended in [6–13] has been applied to deal with the existence of solution and special attractors. In fact, autonomous systems with variable delays are non-autonomous in essence. Except that time-periodic equations can be dealt with classic theory relatively straightforward manner, the qualitative properties or asymptotic behavior of many general non-autonomous systems are analyzed by new ideas and methods. In recent years, non-autonomous diffusion equations have attracted much attention in mathematical literature. Duong [14] considered a class of flux-limited diffusions with external force and established the comparison and maximum principles. Jung et al. [15] considered the nonlinear singularly perturbed reaction–diffusion problems in the polygonal domain and proposed a boundary layer analysis which fits a domain with corners.

For the reaction–diffusion systems with finite delays, there are also a sires of work [11, 16, 17]. More recently, Wang et al. [10] proved the existence of pullback attractors in the weighted space  $C_{\gamma, H^1(\Omega)}$  for the multi-value process generated by (1) based on the concept of the Kuratowski measure of the noncompactness of a bounded set, where the growth of nonlinear term  $F(x, \nu)$  and  $G(x, s, \nu)$  are both linear, and the non-autonomous term  $g(t, x) \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}; L^2(\Omega))$  satisfies

$$\sup_{\tau \leq t} e^{-\eta t} \int_{-\infty}^{\tau} \|g(s)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 e^{\eta s} ds < +\infty, \quad \forall \eta \in \mathbb{R}, \eta > 0. \tag{7}$$

In the present paper, we will prove the existence of solution and the pullback attractors of (1) in the bounded domain of  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  or  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$  under the conditions (2)–(6) for  $r \geq 2$ .

The main work of this paper contains three issues. Since the space  $L^r(\Omega)$  ( $r > 2$ ) loses the inner product and orthogonality, canonical projector and approximation methods [10] are both ineffective to prove the existence of solutions and pullback attractors of (1). In order

to overcome this difficulty, we adopt the idea of [17] and decompose (1) into two equations to separate the non-autonomous term to establish well-posedness (see Theorem 3.7 and Theorem 3.10). In addition we investigate the existence of pullback absorbing set by using the approximation technique of [9, 10] to overcome difficulties stemming from infinite delays and infinite dimensions. Consequently, for verifying the asymptotic compactness of (1) in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  ( $r > 2$ ), we employ the weak continuous semigroup theory and finite dimensional approximation method in [16, 18] to construct compact embedding results (see Theorem 5.6). Moreover, by improving smooth effect of the semigroup  $e^{At}$ , we prove the dissipativity and the existence of pullback attractors for (1) in  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$  (see Lemma 6.1).

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 gives some preliminaries concerning the definitions of processes and the pullback attractors of non-autonomous dynamical systems. We also give the definition of  $\omega$ -limit compact and a suitable non-autonomous frameworks for the discussion of attractors in the future. In Sect. 3, we consider the well-posedness of (1) in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  and  $C_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$ , respectively. In Sects. 4 and 6, we prove the existence of bounded absorbing sets in both spaces above. In Sects. 5 and 7, the existence of pullback attractors in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  and  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$  is proved.

### 2 Preliminaries

Let  $X$  be a complete metric space with metric  $d_X(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Denote by  $H_X^*(\cdot, \cdot)$  the Hausdorff semi-distance between two nonempty subsets of a complete metric space  $X$ , which is defined by

$$H_X^*(A, B) = \sup_{a \in A} \inf_{b \in B} d_X(a, b).$$

**Definition 2.1** A mapping  $U(t, \tau) : X \rightarrow X, t > \tau$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ , is called a process if

- (1)  $U(\tau, \tau)x = x, \forall \tau \in \mathbb{R}, x \in X;$
- (2)  $U(t, s)U(s, \tau)x = U(t, \tau)x, \forall \tau \leq s \leq t \in \mathbb{R}, x \in X.$

**Definition 2.2** The Kuratowski measure  $k(A)$  of noncompactness of the set  $A$  is defined by

$$k(A) = \inf\{\delta > 0 \mid A \text{ admits a finite cover by sets whose diameter } \leq \delta\}.$$

**Definition 2.3** Let  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  be a process on  $X$ . We say that  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  is

- (1) pullback dissipative, if there exists a family of bounded sets  $\mathcal{D} = \{D(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  in  $X$  so that, for any bounded set  $B \subset X$  and each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists a  $S_0 = S_0(B, t) \in \mathbb{R}^+$  such that

$$U(t, t - s)B \subset D(t), \quad \forall s \geq S_0;$$

- (2)  $\mathcal{D}$ -pullback  $\omega$ -limit compact with respect to each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , if, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $S_1 = S_1(\mathcal{D}, t, \varepsilon) \in \mathbb{R}^+$  such that

$$k\left(\bigcup_{s \geq S_1} U(t, t - s)D(t - s)\right) \leq \varepsilon.$$

**Proposition 2.4** *If the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  is  $\mathcal{D}$ -pullback  $\omega$ -limit compact in  $X$ , then  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  is pullback  $\omega$ -limit compact for any bounded subset  $B$  of  $X$ .*

It follows from Theorem 3 of [10].

**Definition 2.5** A family of nonempty compact subsets  $A = \{A(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  of  $X$  is called to be a pullback attractor for the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  if

- (1)  $\mathcal{A} = \{A(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  is invariant, i.e.,

$$U(t, \tau)A(\tau) = A(t), \quad \forall t \geq \tau, \tau \in \mathbb{R};$$

- (2)  $\mathcal{A}$  is pullback attracting, i.e., for every bounded set  $B$  of  $X$  and any fixed  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} H_X^*(U(t, t-s)B, A(t)) = 0.$$

**Definition 2.6** Let  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  be a process on  $X$ . We say that  $U(t, \tau)\zeta$  is norm-to-weak continuous in  $\zeta$  for any fixed  $t \geq \tau, \tau \in \mathbb{R}$ , if there exists a sequence  $\zeta_n \rightarrow \zeta$  in  $X$  and  $t_n \rightarrow t$  such that  $U(t_n, \tau)\zeta_n \rightharpoonup U(t, \tau)\zeta$  (weak convergence).

The general existence of pullback attractors has been given as follows [10].

**Proposition 2.7** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space, and let  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  be a process on  $X$ . Let  $U(t, \tau)\zeta$  is norm-to-weak continuous in  $x$  for fixed  $t \geq \tau, \tau \in \mathbb{R}$ . If, for any fixed  $t \in \mathbb{R}, \forall T \in \mathbb{R}^+, \bigcup_{t \geq T} D(t)$  is bounded, the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  is pullback dissipative and  $\mathcal{D}$ -pullback  $\omega$ -limit compact with respect to each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  possesses a pullback attractor in  $\mathcal{A} = \{A(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  in  $X$  given by*

$$A(t) = \bigcap_{T \in \mathbb{R}^+} \overline{\bigcup_{s \geq T} U(t, t-s)D(t-s)} \subset D(t).$$

### 3 Existence of solutions

By a solution  $u \in C((-\infty, T]; X^1)$  of (1), we mean that, for any  $T > 0, z \in (-\infty, 0], \tau < t \leq T$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) &= e^{\Delta(t-\tau)}u(\tau) + \int_{\tau}^t e^{\Delta(t-s)}[-\lambda u + f(x, u_s) + g(x, s)] ds, \\ &= e^{\Delta(t-\tau)}u(\tau) + \int_{\tau}^t e^{\Delta(t-s)}[-\lambda u + f(x, u(s+z)) + g(x, s)] ds, \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

where  $u(t) = \phi(t - \tau, x), u(\tau) = \phi(0, x), t \in (-\infty, \tau]$ .

Let  $A = \Delta$ .  $X^\alpha$  is the fractional power space associated to the operator  $\Delta$ . The linear operator  $A = \Delta$  with Dirichlet boundary conditions in a bounded and smooth domain  $\Omega$  can be seen as an unbounded operator in  $L^r(\Omega), 1 < r < \infty$ , with domain  $D(A) = W^{2,r}(\Omega) \cap W_0^{1,r}(\Omega)$ . In this situation,  $-A = -\Delta$  is a sectorial operator and generates an analytic semigroup  $e^{At}$  in  $L^r(\Omega)$ . Denote by  $\{E_r^\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}}$  the fractional power spaces associated to  $A$  with the norm  $\|u\|_{E_r^\alpha} = \|(-A)^\alpha u\|_{L^r(\Omega)}, u \in E_r^\alpha$ . Notice that  $E_r^0 = L^r(\Omega)$  and  $E_r^1 = W^{2,r}(\Omega) \cap W_0^{1,r}(\Omega)$ . It follows from [19] that the semigroup  $e^{At}$  has the following smooth effect:

$$\|e^{At}x\|_{E_r^\beta} \leq t^{-(\beta-\alpha)}\|x\|_{E_r^\alpha}, \quad x \in E_r^\beta, t > 0, 0 \leq \alpha \leq \beta. \tag{9}$$

Since the embedding  $E_r^1 \hookrightarrow E_r^0$  is compact, we know from Remark 6.1 of [20] that the resolvent of  $-A$  is compact, and the embedding  $E_r^\alpha \hookrightarrow E_r^\beta$  is continuous and compact for  $\forall \alpha > \beta$ .

### 3.1 Local existence of solutions for (1) in $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$ ( $1 < r < \infty$ )

In order to apply Theorem 1 [18] to prove the existence of a solution for (1), we decompose system (1) into a linear system and a non-autonomous nonlinear system as follows, respectively:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - \Delta v = g(t, x) & \text{in } [\tau, +\infty) \times \Omega, \\ v|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, & t > \tau, \\ v(t, x) = 0, & \tau \in \mathbb{R}, t \in (-\infty, \tau], x \in \Omega, \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

and

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} - \Delta w = \tilde{f}(x, w_t) + f_1(w) & \text{in } [\tau, +\infty) \times \Omega, \\ w|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, & t > \tau, \\ w(t, x) = \phi(t - \tau, x), & \tau \in \mathbb{R}, t \in (-\infty, \tau], x \in \Omega, \end{cases} \tag{11}$$

where  $\tilde{f}(x, w_t) = f(x, w_t + v_t)$ ,  $f_1(w) = -\lambda(w + v)$ ,  $u_t = v_t + w_t$ .

**Lemma 3.1** ([21]) *For any  $\tau \leq t_1 < t_2$ ,  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ ,*

$$\left\| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} e^{A(t_2-s)} g(x, s) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq \|g(x, t)\|_{L^p_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\Omega))} (t_2 - t_1)^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

Furthermore, Eq. (10) has a unique solution  $v(t)$  in the sense of (8) such that

$$v(t) \in C([\tau, T_0 + \tau]; L^r(\Omega))$$

satisfies

$$v(t) = \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)} g(x, s) ds, \tag{12}$$

where  $T_0$  is chosen in Lemma 3.6 later.

*Proof*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} e^{A(t_2-s)} g(x, s) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \|g(x, t)\|_{L^p_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\Omega))} ds \\ & \leq \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \|g(x, t)\|_{L^p_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\Omega))} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ & \leq \|g(x, t)\|_{L^p_{\text{loc}}(t_1, t_2; L^r(\Omega))} (t_2 - t_1)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that we can choose  $0 < t_2 - t_1 \leq 1$ . □

**Lemma 3.2** *Assuming (2)–(5) hold, we have*

$$\|\tilde{f}(t, w_t) + f_1(w)\|_{X^1} \leq C_3(\lambda + 1)(1 + \|w_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}), \tag{13}$$

$$\|\tilde{f}(t, w_t) - \tilde{f}(t, v_t) + f_1(w) - f_1(v)\|_{X^1} \leq C_4(\lambda + 1)\|w_t - v_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}, \tag{14}$$

where  $w, v \in C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau]; L^r(\Omega))$ ,  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ .

*Proof* Denote  $X_r^\alpha := E_r^{\alpha-1}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ . Especially,  $X_r^1 := L^r(\Omega)$ . For any  $u, \psi \in C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau]; L^r(\Omega))$  and any  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|F(t, u_t)\|_{X^1} &\leq C_5(\|k_1 + k_2 e^{-\gamma \rho(t)} u_t\|_{X^1}) \\ &\leq C_5(k_1 |\Omega| + k_2 \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}) \\ &\leq C_5(1 + \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}) \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| \int_{-\infty}^0 G(t, z, u(t+z)) dz \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ &\leq \left\| \int_{-\infty}^0 (|m_0(z)| + m_1(z)|u(t+z)|) dz \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ &\leq m_0 |\Omega| + m_1 \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}} \\ &\leq C_6(1 + \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}). \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Combining with (15) and (16), for any  $u, \psi \in C((\tau, T_0 + \tau]; X^1)$ , we have

$$\|f(t, u_t)\|_{X^1} \leq C_3(1 + \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}). \tag{17}$$

By (4) and (5), we find

$$\begin{aligned} &\|f(t, u_t) - f(t, \psi_t)\|_{X^1} \\ &\leq C_1 e^{-\gamma \rho(t)} \|u(t - \rho(t)) - v(t - \rho(t))\|_{L^r(\Omega)} + C_2 \left\| \int_{-\infty}^0 m_1(z) |u_t - \psi_t| dz \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ &\leq C_3 \|u_t - \psi_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}, \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

where  $C_3$  and  $C_4$  depend on  $(k_1, k_2, m_0, m_1, m_2)$ . From (17) and (18), we obtain

$$\|\tilde{f}(t, w_t)\|_{X^1} \leq C'_3(\|w_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}} + 1), \tag{19}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{f}(t, w_t) - \tilde{f}(t, v_t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} &= \|f(t, w_t + v_t) - f(t, w_t + v_t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ &\leq C'_4 \|w_t - v_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}. \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Hence, (13) and (14) are obvious. □

**Lemma 3.3** *If  $u \in C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau], L^r(\Omega))$ , then, for all  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ ,  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$ , we have*

$$\left\| \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)} (f_1(w) + \tilde{f}(t, w_s)) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau)(\omega(t) + 1), \tag{21}$$

where

$$\omega(t) = \left( \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}} + \sup_{\theta \in (\tau, t]} \|w(\theta) + v(\theta)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \right).$$

*Proof* By (9), it is not difficult to see that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)} \tilde{f}(t, w_s) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq C(\lambda + 1) \int_{\tau}^t (1 + \|w_s + v_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}) ds \\ & \leq C(\lambda + 1) \int_{\tau}^t \left( \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}} + \sup_{\theta \in (\tau, s]} \|w(\theta) + v(\theta)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \right) ds + C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau) \\ & \leq C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau)\omega(t) + C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau). \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

□

**Lemma 3.4** *For any  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ ,  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$  and any  $w, v \in C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau], L^r(\Omega))$  be such that  $(t - \tau)\|w_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}} \leq \mu$ ,  $(t - \tau)\|v_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}} \leq \mu$ , for some  $\mu > 0$ . Then we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)} [(\tilde{f}(s, w_s) - \tilde{f}(s, v_s)) + (f_1(w(s)) - f_1(v(s)))] ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau) \sup_{\theta \in (\tau, t]} \|w(\theta) - v(\theta)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}. \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

*Proof*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)} [(\tilde{f}(s, w_s) - \tilde{f}(s, v_s)) + (f_1(w(s)) - f_1(v(s)))] ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq C(1 + \lambda) \int_{\tau}^t \|w_s - v_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}} ds \\ & \leq C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau) \sup_{\theta \in (\tau, t]} \|w(\theta) - v(\theta)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}. \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

□

**Lemma 3.5** ([22]) *Assume  $u : (-\infty, T_0) \rightarrow X$  is continuous and  $u_{\tau} = \phi$ . If there exists a nondecreasing function  $m(t) \geq 0$  such that*

$$\|u(t)\|_X \leq \|\phi(\tau)\|_X + m(t), \quad \text{for all } -\infty < t \leq T_0,$$

then

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|u(t+z)\|_X \leq \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|\phi(t+z)\|_X + m(t), \quad -\infty < t \leq T_0. \tag{25}$$

**Lemma 3.6** *Assume (2)–(6) hold. Let  $1 < r < \infty$ ,  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$ . For any  $\chi_\tau \in C((-\infty, 0]; L^r(\Omega))$ , there exist  $R(\chi_\tau) > 0$  and  $T_0 = T_0(\chi_\tau)$  with the property that, for any  $\phi \in B_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}(\chi_\tau, R)$ , there exists a continuous function  $w(\cdot; \phi(0))$  with  $w_\tau = \phi$ :*

$$w \in C([\tau, T_0 + \tau]; L^r(\Omega)) \tag{26}$$

*such that, for any  $t \in [\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ ,  $w$  is the unique solution of Eq. (11) in the sense of (8). This solution is a classical solution and for any  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ , satisfies*

$$w_t \in C((-\infty, 0]; L^r(\Omega)) \tag{27}$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \tau^+} (t - \tau) \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|w(t + z, \phi)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} = 0, \tag{28}$$

and, moreover, if  $\phi_1, \phi_2 \in B_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}(\chi_\tau, R)$  then

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|w(t + z, \phi_1) - v(t + z, \phi_2)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq M_1 e^{M_2(t-\tau)} \|\phi_1 - \phi_2\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}. \tag{29}$$

Furthermore, the time of existence is uniform on any bounded set (respectively, compact set)  $S$  of  $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ .

*Proof* Fix  $\mu > 0$  and for any  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\forall t \in (-\infty, \tau]$ , let  $\|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)} \leq \mu$ . We will use the contraction mapping principle to establish the existence of a solution for (11).

Let

$$K(T_0) = \left\{ w \in C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau]; L^r(\Omega)), t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau] : \sup_{t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]} \|w(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq \mu + 1 \right\},$$

with the norm

$$\|w\|_{K(T_0)} = \sup_{t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]} \|w(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)},$$

where  $T_0$  is determined later. So that  $(K, \|\cdot\|)$  is a nonempty complete metric space. For each  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ , we introduce the mapping

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi : K(T_0) &\rightarrow C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau]; X^1), \\ \Phi(w)(t) &= \begin{cases} e^{\Delta(t-\tau)} w(\tau) + \int_\tau^t e^{\Delta(t-s)} [f_1(w) + \tilde{f}(s, w_s)] ds, & t > \tau, \\ w(t, x) = \phi(t - \tau, x), & t \in (-\infty, \tau]. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

Let us first prove that  $\Phi$  is a well-defined map and  $\Phi(K(T_0)) \subset K(T_0)$ . We start by showing that

$$\text{if } w \in K(T_0), \text{ then } \Phi(w) \in C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau]; L^r(\Omega)). \tag{31}$$

Fixing  $t_2 \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ , and letting  $T_0 + \tau \geq t_1 > t_2$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\Phi w)(t_1) - (\Phi w)(t_2)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \| (e^{-A(t_1)} - e^{-A(t_2)})w(\tau) \|_{L^r(\Omega)} + \left\| \int_{t_2}^{t_1} e^{A(t_1-s)} \tilde{f}(s, w_s) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \quad + \left\| \int_{t_2}^{t_1} e^{A(t_1-s)} f_1(w(s)) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} + \left\| [I - e^{-A(t_1-t_2)}] \int_{\tau}^{t_2} e^{A(t_2-s)} \tilde{f}(s, w_s) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

In the above, the first and fourth term trivially go to zero as  $t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ . Let us consider the second term. For this term we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_{t_2}^{t_1} e^{A(t_1-s)} \tilde{f}(s, w_s) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq C \int_{t_2}^{t_1} (1 + \|w_s + v_s\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}) ds \\ & \leq C \left( \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)} + \sup_{s \in (\tau, t_1]} \|w(s) + v(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \right) (t_1 - t_2) + C(t_1 - t_2) \\ & \leq C\omega(t)(t_1 - t_2) + C(t_1 - t_2), \end{aligned}$$

which goes to zero as  $t_1 \rightarrow t_2^+$ . Similarly, the third term also goes to zero as  $t_1 \rightarrow t_2^+$ . The case  $t_1 < t_2$  is similar.

Let us now show that  $\|\Phi(w)(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq \mu + 1$ , for all  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ . For  $\chi_\tau \in C((-\infty, 0]; L^r(\Omega))$  fixed, choose  $r \ll 1$  and  $T_0 \leq \frac{1-r}{C(\lambda+1)(1+\omega(t))}$  such that, for any  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ , by (9), we have  $\|e^{A(t-\tau)}\chi_\tau\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq \mu$ , and  $\|e^{A(t-\tau)}r\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq r$ .

Based on the above fact, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Phi(w)(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \|e^{-A(t-\tau)}w(\tau)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} + C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau) + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau) \int_{\tau}^t \|w_s\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)} ds \\ & \leq \|e^{-A(t-\tau)}r\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)} + \|e^{-A(t-\tau)}\chi_\tau\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)} + C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau)(1 + \omega(t)) \\ & \leq r + \|\chi_\tau\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)} + C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau)(1 + \omega(t)) \\ & \leq \mu + r + C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau)(1 + \omega(t)). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, it follows from Lemma 3.3 that  $\Phi$  is a strict contraction in  $K(T_0)$  and that

$$\|\Phi(w) - \Phi(v)\|_{K(T_0)} \leq C(\lambda + 1)(t - \tau)\omega(t)\|w - v\|_{K(T_0)}, \quad t \in [\tau, T_0 + \tau].$$

The simple computations above suggest that we can choose  $T_0$  small enough so that the map  $\Phi$  is contraction from  $K(T_0)$  into itself. By the Banach contraction principle we see that  $\Phi$  has a unique fixed point in  $K(T_0)$ . We will denote this fixed point by  $w(t, \phi)$  for  $t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ ,  $\phi \in C((-\infty, 0], L^r(\Omega))$ , and it is defined for  $\|\phi - \chi_\tau\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)} \leq \rho$ . Note that from (31)  $w(t, \phi) \in C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau]; L^r(\Omega))$ .

Let us prove that  $(t - \tau)\|w_t\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \tau^+$ .

From Lemma 3.3,

$$\begin{aligned} & (t - \tau) \|w(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq (t - \tau) \|e^{A(t-\tau)} \phi(0)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} + (t - \tau) \int_{\tau}^t \|e^{A(t-s)} (f_1(w) + \tilde{f}(s, w_s))\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\ & \leq (t - \tau) \|\phi(0)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau) \int_{\tau}^t (1 + \|w_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)}) ds \\ & \quad + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau) \|v_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.5, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & (t - \tau) \|w_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} \\ & \leq (t - \tau) \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau) \int_{\tau}^t \|w_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau). \end{aligned}$$

Thus by the Gronwall inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (t - \tau) \|w_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} \\ & \leq (t - \tau) \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau) \\ & \quad + (\|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda))(t - \tau) C(1 + \lambda) \int_{\tau}^t \exp(C(1 + \lambda)(t - s)) ds \\ & \leq (\|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda))(t - \tau) \\ & \quad + C(1 + \lambda)(\|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda))(t - \tau)^2 \exp(C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau)) \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \tau^+} 0. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, if  $\forall \phi_1, \phi_2 \in B_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)}(\chi_{\tau}, r)$ , taking into account the estimates of Lemma 3.3 and our choice of  $T_0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|w(t, \phi_1(0)) - v(t, \phi_2(0))\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \|e^{A(t-\tau)} (\phi_1(0) - \phi_2(0))\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \quad + \left\| \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)} [\tilde{f}(s, w_s) - \tilde{f}(s, v_s) + f_1(w) - f_1(v)] ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \|(\phi_1 - \phi_2)\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda) \int_{\tau}^t \|w_s - v_s\|_{C_{L^r}(\Omega)} ds \\ & \leq \|(\phi_1 - \phi_2)\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau) \|(\phi_1 - \phi_2)\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)} \\ & \quad + C(1 + \lambda) \int_{\tau}^t \sup_{\theta \in (\tau, s]} \|w(\theta) - v(\theta)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\theta \in (\tau, t]} \|w(t, \phi_1(0)) - v(t, \phi_2(0))\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq (1 + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau)) e^{C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau)} \|(\phi_1 - \phi_2)\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r}(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \|w_t(\cdot, \phi_1) - v_t(\cdot, \phi_2)\|_{C_Y, L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq (1 + C(1 + \lambda)(t - \tau)) \|(\phi_1 - \phi_2)\|_{C_Y, L^r(\Omega)} e^{C(1+\lambda)(t-\tau)} \\ & \leq M_1(t - \tau) \|(\phi_1 - \phi_2)\|_{C_Y, L^r(\Omega)} e^{M_1(t-\tau)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $M_1 = 1 + C(1 + \lambda)$ .

This concludes the existence of the theorem. Notice that, from the existence part, we see that, for any  $\phi \in B_{C_Y, L^r(\Omega)}(\chi_\tau, R)$ , there exists a unique solution in the sense of (8), defined in  $[\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ . The uniqueness of solutions for Eq. (11) is proved.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.7** *Assume (2)–(6) hold. Let  $1 < r < \infty$ ,  $g \in L^r_{loc}(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\Omega))$  ( $r > 1$ ),  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$ . If  $v_\tau \in C((-\infty, 0]; L^r(\Omega))$ , there exist  $0 < R(v_\tau) \leq R(\chi_\tau)$  and  $T_0(v_\tau) \leq T_0(\chi_\tau)$  with the property that, for any  $\phi \in B_{C_Y, L^r(\Omega)}(v_\tau, R)$ , there exists a continuous function  $u(\cdot; \phi(0))$  with  $u_\tau = \phi$ :*

$$u \in C([\tau, T_0 + \tau]; L^r(\Omega)), \tag{32}$$

which is the unique solution of (1) in the sense of (8). This solution is a classical solution and  $\forall t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$  it satisfies

$$u_t \in C((-\infty, 0]; L^r(\Omega)) \tag{33}$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \tau^+} (t - \tau) \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|u(t + z, \phi)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} = 0; \tag{34}$$

if  $\forall \phi_1, \phi_2 \in B_{C_Y, L^r(\Omega)}(v_\tau, r)$ , then

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|u_1(t + z, \phi_1) - u_2(t + z, \phi_2)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq M_1(t - \tau) e^{M_1(t-\tau)} \|\phi_1 - \phi_2\|_{C_Y, L^r(\Omega)}. \tag{35}$$

Furthermore, the time of existence is uniform on any bounded set (respectively, compact set)  $S$  of  $C_Y, L^r(\Omega)$ .

*Proof* By Lemma 3.1 and Lemma 3.6, Eq. (1) has a unique solution  $u \in C((-\infty, T_0]; L^r(\Omega))$  satisfying (33)–(35).  $\square$

### 3.2 Local existence of solutions of (1) in $C_Y, W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ ( $1 < r < N$ )

**Lemma 3.8** ([21]) *For any  $t_1 < t_2$ ,  $0 < \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{2}$ , where  $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ , we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} e^{A(t_2-s)} g(x, s) ds \right\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \left( \frac{1}{1 - \frac{q}{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \|g(x, t)\|_{L^r_b(t_1, t_2; L^r(\Omega))} (t_2 - t_1)^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, Eq. (10) has a unique solution  $v(t)$  in the sense of (8) such that

$$v(t) \in C([\tau, T_0]; W^{1,r}(\Omega)) \cap C([\tau, T_0 + \tau]; W^{2,r}(\Omega))$$

satisfies

$$v(t) = \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)} g(x, s) ds. \tag{36}$$

*Proof* We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} e^{A(t_2-s)} g(x, s) ds \right\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \left\| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (t_2 - s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} g(x, s) ds \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (t_2 - s)^{-\frac{q}{2}} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \|g(x, s)\|_{L_b^r(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\Omega))}^r ds \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\ & \leq \left( \frac{1}{1 - \frac{q}{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \|g(x, t)\|_{L_{loc}^r(t_1, t_2; L^r(\Omega))} (t_2 - t_1)^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{2}}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 3.9** Assume (2)–(6) hold. Let  $1 < r < N$ ,  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$ . If  $\chi_{\tau} \in C((-\infty, 0]; W^{1,r}(\Omega))$ , there exist  $R(\chi_{\tau}) > 0$  and  $T_0(\chi_{\tau}) > 0$  with the property that  $\forall t \in (-\infty, \tau)$  for any  $\phi \in B_{C_{\gamma}, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(\chi_{\tau}, R)$ , there exists a continuous function  $w(\cdot; \phi(0))$  with  $w_{\tau} = \phi$ :

$$w \in C([\tau, T_0 + \tau]; W^{1,r}(\Omega)), \tag{37}$$

which is the unique solution of (11) in the sense of (8). This solution is a classical solution and  $\forall t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ ,  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$ , satisfies

$$w_t \in C((-\infty, 0]; W^{1,r}(\Omega)) \tag{38}$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \tau^+} (t - \tau) \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|w(t + z, \phi)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} = 0, \tag{39}$$

and if  $\phi_1, \phi_2 \in B_{C_{\gamma}, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(\chi_{\tau}, R)$ , then

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|w(t + z, \phi_1) - v(t + z, \phi_2)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \leq M_1 T_0 e^{M_1(t-\tau)} \|\phi_1 - \phi_2\|_{C_{\gamma}, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}. \tag{40}$$

Furthermore, the time of existence is uniform on any bounded set (respectively, compact set)  $S$  of  $C_{\gamma}, W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ .

*Proof* For  $\forall t \in (\tau, T_0 + \tau]$ ,  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$  and any  $w, v \in C((-\infty, T_0 + \tau]; W^{1,r}(\Omega))$ , using (2),(3), we obtain (13) and (14). The remaining part of the proof is similar to Lemma 3.6. □

**Theorem 3.10** *Assume (2)–(6) hold. Let  $1 < r < \infty, r > 1, z \in (-\infty, 0]$ . If  $v_\tau \in C((-\infty, 0]; W^{1,r}(\Omega))$ , there exist  $0 < R(v_\tau) \leq R(\chi_\tau)$  and  $T_0(v_\tau) \leq T_0(\chi_\tau)$  with the property that for any  $\phi \in B_{C_\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(v_\tau, R)$ , there exists a continuous function  $u(\cdot; \phi(0))$  with  $u_\tau = \phi$ :*

$$u \in C([\tau, T_0 + \tau]; W^{1,r}(\Omega)), \tag{41}$$

which is the unique solution of (11) in the sense of (8). This solution is a classical solution and  $\forall t \in [\tau, T_0 + \tau]$  it satisfies

$$u_t \in C((-\infty, 0]; W^{1,r}(\Omega)), \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \tau^+} (t - \tau) \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|u(t + z, \phi)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} = 0, \tag{42}$$

and if  $\phi_1, \phi_2 \in B_{C_\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(v_\tau, R)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|u(t + z, \phi_1) - u(t + z, \phi_2)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \\ & \leq M_1(t - \tau) e^{M_1(t - \tau)} \|\phi_1 - \phi_2\|_{C_\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}. \end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

Furthermore, the time of existence is uniform on any bounded set (respectively, compact set)  $S$  of  $C_\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ .

*Proof* It follows from Lemmas 3.8 and 3.9. The proof is similar to Theorem 3.7. Here we omit the details. □

#### 4 Uniform estimates in $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$

**Lemma 4.1** *Assume that (2), (3), and (6) hold,  $g \in L^r_{loc}(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\Omega))$ , and there exists a positive constant  $\alpha$  such that*

$$(\lambda - (\varepsilon_2 + m_1 + \varepsilon_4)(r - 1) - \alpha) > 0 \tag{44}$$

and

$$L := \left( m_1 + \frac{2^r k_2^r}{\lambda^{(r-1)}} \right) < \alpha \leq r\gamma. \tag{45}$$

Then, for any initial data  $\phi \in C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ , any solution  $u_t$  of Eq. (1) satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_t\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r & \leq r e^{\alpha\tau} e^{-\alpha t} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - L} C_\Omega + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{-\alpha t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ & \quad + r e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{(L-\alpha)t} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r \\ & \quad + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{(L-\alpha)t} \int_{-\infty}^t (e^{(\alpha-L)s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r) ds, \end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

where  $\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_4$  will be determined later on.

*Proof* Multiplying (1) by  $|u(t)|^{r-2}u(t)$  and integrating by parts, we get

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{dt} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + \frac{4(r-1)}{r^2} \int_\Omega |\nabla(|u(t)|^{\frac{r}{2}})|^2 dx + \int_\Omega \lambda |u(t)|^r dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_{\Omega} F(t, u(x, t - \rho(t))) |u(t)|^{r-2} u(t) \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^0 G(t, s, u(t+s)) |u(t)|^{r-2} u(t) \, ds \, dx \\
 &\quad + \int_{\Omega} g(t, x) |u(t)|^{r-2} u(t) \, dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

We fix two positive parameters  $\varepsilon_1$  and  $\varepsilon_4$  that will be chosen later. Then, by assumptions (2), (6) and Young’s inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int_{\Omega} F(t, u(x, t - \rho(t))) |u|^{r-2} u \, dx \\
 &\leq \int_{\Omega} |F(t, u(x, t - \rho(t)))| |u(t)|^{(r-1)} \, dx \\
 &\leq \frac{2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)}}{r} |k_1|^r |\Omega|^r + \frac{2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)}}{r} k_2^r \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r + \varepsilon_1 \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right) \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r
 \end{aligned} \tag{48}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\Omega} g(t, x) |u(t)|^{r-2} u(t) \, dx &\leq \int_{\Omega} |g(t, x)| |u(t)|^{(r-1)} \, dx \\
 &\leq \frac{\varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)}}{r} \|g(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + \varepsilon_4 \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right) \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r.
 \end{aligned} \tag{49}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{d}{dt} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + \frac{4(r-1)}{r} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(|u(t)|^{\frac{r}{2}})|^2 \, dx + (r\lambda - (\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_4)(r-1)) \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \, dx \\
 &\leq \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} (k_1 |\Omega|^r + k_2^r \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r) + r \int_{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^0 G(t, s, u(t+s)) |u(t)|^{r-2} u(t) \, ds \, dx \\
 &\quad + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \|g(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r.
 \end{aligned} \tag{50}$$

Let  $\alpha > 0$ , it will also be determined later. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{d}{dt} (e^{\alpha t} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r) \\
 &= \alpha e^{\alpha t} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + e^{\alpha t} \frac{d}{dt} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 &\leq -\frac{4(r-1)}{r} e^{\alpha t} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(|u(t)|^{\frac{r}{2}})|^2 \, dx - (r\lambda - (\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_4)(r-1) - \alpha) e^{\alpha t} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 &\quad + \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} e^{\alpha t} |k_1|^r |\Omega|^r + \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} e^{\alpha t} k_2^r \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{\alpha t} \|g(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 &\quad + r e^{\alpha t} \int_{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^0 G(t, s, u(t+s)) |u(t)|^{r-2} u(t) \, ds \, dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{51}$$

Integrating from  $\tau$  to  $t$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &e^{\alpha t} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 &\leq e^{\alpha \tau} \|u(\tau)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r - \int_{\tau}^t (r\lambda - (\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_4)(r-1) - \alpha) e^{\alpha s} \|u(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \, dx
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} |k_1|^r |\Omega|^r \frac{e^{\alpha t}}{\alpha} + \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} k_2^r \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r ds \\
 & + r \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \int_{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^0 G(s, z, u(s+z)) |u(s)|^{r-2} u(s) dz dx ds \\
 & + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds.
 \end{aligned} \tag{52}$$

By assumption (3), (6) and Young’s inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & r \left| \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \int_{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^0 G(s, z, u(s+z)) |u(s)|^{r-2} u(s) dz dx ds \right| \\
 & \leq r \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \int_{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^0 |G(s, z, u(s+z))| |u(s)|^{r-1} dz dx ds \\
 & \leq \varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)} m_0^r |\Omega|^r \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} ds + \varepsilon_2(r-1) \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\
 & \quad + \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)} m_1 \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r ds + \varepsilon_3(r-1) m_1 \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\
 & \leq \varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)} m_0^r \|\Omega\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \frac{e^{\alpha t}}{\alpha} + \varepsilon_2(r-1) \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\
 & \quad + \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)} m_1 \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r ds + \varepsilon_3(r-1) m_1 \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds,
 \end{aligned} \tag{53}$$

where  $\varepsilon_2$  and  $\varepsilon_3$  are other positive constants to be determined later.

Combining (52)–(53) we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & e^{\alpha t} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 & \leq e^{\alpha \tau} \|u(\tau)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + \left( \frac{k_1 |\Omega|^r}{\varepsilon_1^{(r-1)} \alpha} + \frac{m_0^r |\Omega|^r}{\varepsilon_2^{(r-1)} \alpha} \right) e^{\alpha t} \\
 & \quad - (r\lambda - (\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 m_1 + \varepsilon_4)(r-1) - \alpha) \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\
 & \quad + \left( \frac{m_1}{\varepsilon_3^{(r-1)}} + \frac{k_2^r}{\varepsilon_1^{(r-1)}} \right) \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r ds + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_4^{(r-1)}} \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds.
 \end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

Choosing  $\varepsilon_1 = \lambda$ ,  $\varepsilon_3 = 1$ , we now can choose positive constants  $\varepsilon_2$  and  $\varepsilon_4$  small enough such that  $(\lambda - (\varepsilon_2 + \bar{m}_1 + \varepsilon_4)(r-1) - \alpha) > 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & e^{\alpha t} \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 & \leq e^{\alpha \tau} \|u(\tau)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + \left( \frac{k_1 |\Omega|^r}{\lambda^{(r-1)} \alpha} + \frac{m_0^r |\Omega|^r}{\varepsilon_2^{(r-1)} \alpha} \right) e^{\alpha t} \\
 & \quad + \left( m_1 + \frac{k_2^r}{\lambda^{(r-1)}} \right) \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|u_s\|_{C_{L^r(\Omega)}}^r ds + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \int_{\tau}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds.
 \end{aligned} \tag{55}$$

Now set  $t + \theta$  instead of  $t$ , where  $\theta \in (-\infty, 0]$ . By the assumption (45), we have  $\alpha \leq r\gamma$ . Multiplying (55) by  $e^{-\alpha(t+\theta)}$  and  $e^{r\gamma\theta} e^{-r\gamma\theta}$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{\theta \in (\tau-t, 0]} e^{r\gamma\theta} \|u(t+\theta)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r &\leq e^{-\alpha t} e^{\alpha\tau} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r + C_\Omega + \frac{e^{-\alpha t}}{\varepsilon_4^{(r-1)}} \int_\tau^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ &\quad + \left(m_1 + \frac{k_2^r}{\lambda^{(r-1)}}\right) e^{-\alpha t} \int_\tau^t e^{\alpha s} \|u_s\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r ds, \end{aligned} \tag{56}$$

where

$$C_\Omega = \left(\frac{k_1|\Omega|^r}{\lambda^{(r-1)}\alpha} + \frac{m_0^r|\Omega|^r}{\varepsilon_2^{(r-1)}\alpha}\right). \tag{57}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} e^{r\gamma\theta} \|u(t+\theta)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r &= e^{r\gamma\theta} \|\phi(t+\theta-\tau)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r = e^{-r\gamma(t-\tau)} e^{r\gamma(t+\theta-\tau)} \|\phi(t+\theta-\tau)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\ &\leq e^{-r\gamma(t-\tau)} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r \leq e^{-\alpha(t-\tau)} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r, \quad \forall \theta \in (-\infty, \tau-t]. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $L := m_1 + \frac{2^r k_2^r}{\lambda^{(r-1)}} < \alpha$ . Then it yields

$$\begin{aligned} e^{\alpha t} \|u_t\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r &\leq r e^{\alpha\tau} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r + C_\Omega e^{\alpha t} + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \int_\tau^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ &\quad + \left(m_1 + \frac{2^r k_2^r}{\lambda^{(r-1)}}\right) \int_\tau^t e^{\alpha s} \|u_s\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ &\leq r e^{\alpha\tau} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r + C_\Omega e^{\alpha t} + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \int_\tau^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ &\quad + L \int_\tau^t e^{\alpha s} \|u_s\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r ds. \end{aligned}$$

By Fubini’s theorem and Gronwall’s lemma, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} e^{\alpha t} \|u_t\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r &\leq r e^{\alpha\tau} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \int_\tau^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ &\quad + r e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{Lt} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha-L} C_\Omega e^{\alpha t} \\ &\quad + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{Lt} \int_\tau^t (e^{(\alpha-L)s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r) ds. \end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

Hence, (6) and condition (45) imply that

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_t\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r &\leq C r e^{-\alpha t} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha-L} C_\Omega + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{-\alpha t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ &\quad + r e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{(L-\alpha)t} \|\phi\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r \\ &\quad + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{(L-\alpha)t} \int_{-\infty}^t (e^{(\alpha-L)s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r) ds \\ &\triangleq R_{1, C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}(t, \phi, g, \alpha, L). \end{aligned} \tag{59}$$

For each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , let

$$B_{R_1, C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}(t) = \{u \in C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega) \mid \|u\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r \leq R_1, C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)(t, \phi, g, \alpha, L)\}, \tag{60}$$

which implies that the family of bounded sets  $B = \{B_{R_1, C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  is pullback absorbing for the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  on  $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ .  $\square$

### 5 Existence of the pullback attractors in $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ ( $r > 2$ )

In this section, we will discuss the case where the external forcing term  $g$  belongs only to  $L^r_{loc}(\mathbb{R}, L^r(\Omega))$ . Inspired by the idea for proving the existence of global attractors in  $L^r(\Omega)$ , we modify Theorem 5.11 [18] to prove the existence of the pullback attractors in  $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ .

**Lemma 5.1** *Hypotheses (2), (3), (6) hold, and  $g \in C(\mathbb{R}; L^2(\Omega))$ . Then there exists a pullback attractor  $\{\mathcal{A}_{C_\gamma, L^2(\Omega)}(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  for the processes  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  on  $C_\gamma, L^2(\Omega)$  generated by the solution of Eq. (1).*

*Proof* By Theorem 13 [10], the processes  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  on  $C_\gamma, H^1(\Omega)$  associated with Eq. (1) has a pullback attractor  $\mathcal{A}_{C_\gamma, H^1(\Omega)}$ . From the Sobolev embedding theorem  $H^1(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^2(\Omega)$  and  $C_\gamma, H^1(\Omega) \subseteq C_\gamma, L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_{C_\gamma, H^1(\Omega)}$  is a pullback attractor for the processes  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  on  $C_\gamma, L^2(\Omega)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.2** *Let  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  associated with Eq. (1) be an evolution process on  $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$  with a pullback absorbing set  $\mathcal{D} = \{D(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  on  $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ . Then, for each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and any pullback absorbing set  $\mathcal{D} \subset C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ , there exist  $T = T(\mathcal{D}, t, \varepsilon) > 0$ ,  $M = M(\varepsilon) > 0$  such that*

$$m(\Omega_t(|U(t, t+z)u^0(t+z)| \geq M)) \leq \varepsilon, \quad \text{for any } -z \leq T, \text{ and } u_t^0(\cdot) \in \mathcal{D},$$

where  $m(e)$  denotes the Lebesgue measure of  $e \subset \Omega$  and  $\Omega_t(|u_t(z)| \geq M) \triangleq \bigcup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} \{x \in \Omega \mid |u(t+z, x)| \geq M\}$ .

*Proof* From the assumption that  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  has a pullback absorbing set in  $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ , we know that there exists a positive constant  $M_0$ , such that, for each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and for any pullback absorbing set  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)$ , we can find a positive constant  $T$  which depends on  $\mathcal{D}$ , such that

$$\|U(t, t+z)u^0(t+z)\|_{C_\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}^r \leq M_0, \quad \text{for any } -z \geq T, \text{ and } u_t^0(\cdot) \in \mathcal{D}.$$

So, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2M_0 &\geq 2 \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega} |U(t, t+z)u^0(t+z)|^r dx \\ &\geq \sup_{z \in (-\infty, -T_1]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t(\{|u(t+z)| \geq M_1\})} |U(t, t+z)u^0(t+z)|^r dx \\ &\quad + \sup_{z \in (-T_1, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t(\{|u(t+z)| \geq M_1\})} |U(t, t+z)u^0(t+z)|^r dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\geq e^{-\gamma T_1} \left( \int_{\Omega_t^z(\{|U(t,t+z)u^0(t+z)| \geq M_1\})} M_1^r dx + \int_{\Omega_t^z(\{|U(t,t+z)u^0(t+z)| \geq M_1\})} M_1^r dx \right) \\ &\geq 2e^{-\gamma T_1} M_1^r m(\Omega(\{|U(t,t+z)u^0(t+z)| \geq M_1\})). \end{aligned}$$

This inequality implies that  $m(\Omega_t^z(\{|U(t,t+z)u^0(t+z)| \geq M_1\})) \leq \varepsilon$ , if we choose  $M_1$  large enough such that  $M_1 \geq (\frac{M_0}{e^{-\gamma T_1} \varepsilon})^{\frac{1}{r}}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.3** *For each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , the pullback absorbing set  $\mathcal{D}$  of process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  associated with Eq. (1) on  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  ( $r > 0$ ) has a finite  $\varepsilon$ -net in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$ , if there exists a positive constant  $M = M(\varepsilon)$  which depends on  $\varepsilon$ , such that*

(i)  $\mathcal{D}$  has a finite  $(3M)^{(2-r)/2} (\frac{\varepsilon}{2})^{\frac{r}{2}}$ -net in  $C_{\gamma, L^2(\Omega)}$ ,

(ii)

$$\left( \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(\{|u(t+z)| \geq M\})} |u(t+z)|^r dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} < 2^{-(2r+2)/r} \varepsilon, \quad \text{for any } u_t(\cdot) \in \mathcal{D}. \tag{61}$$

*Proof* For each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , any fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ , it follows from the assumptions that  $\mathcal{D}$  has a finite  $\frac{(3M)^{(2-r)}}{2\varepsilon^{r/2}}$ -net in  $C_{\gamma, L^2(\Omega)}$ , that is, there exist  $u_t^1, \dots, u_t^k \in \mathcal{D}$ , such that, for each  $u_t(\cdot) \in \mathcal{D}$ , we can find some  $u_t^i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq k$ ) satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 &\leq \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \\ &= \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|u_t - u_t^i\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 < (3M)^{(2-r)} \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\right)^r. \end{aligned} \tag{62}$$

Then, obviously, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\|u_t - u_t^i\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r \\ &\leq \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(\{|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)| \geq 3M\})} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx \\ &\quad + \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(\{|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)| \leq 3M\})} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx \end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(\{|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)| \leq 3M\})} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx \\ &\leq (3M)^{r-2} \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(\{|u_t - u_t^i| \leq 3M\})} |u_t - u_t^i|^2 dx, \\ &\leq (3M)^{r-2} (3M)^{2-r} \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\right)^r = \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\right)^r. \end{aligned} \tag{64}$$

On the other hand, set

$$\Omega_1^z = \Omega_t^z\left(|u(t+z)| \geq \frac{3M}{2}\right) \cap \Omega_t^z\left(|u^i(t+z)| \leq \frac{3M}{2}\right),$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_2^z &= \Omega_t^z \left( |u(t+z)| \leq \frac{3M}{2} \right) \cap \Omega_t^z \left( |u^i(t+z)| \geq \frac{3M}{2} \right), \\ \Omega_3^z &= \Omega_t^z \left( |u(t+z)| \geq \frac{3M}{2} \right) \cap \Omega_t^z \left( |u^i(t+z)| \geq \frac{3M}{2} \right), \end{aligned}$$

then we have

$$\Omega_t^z (|u(t+z)| \geq 3M) \subset \Omega_1^z \cup \Omega_2^z \cup \Omega_3^z.$$

From the simple facts that  $|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)| \leq 2|u(t+z)|$  in  $\Omega_1^z$  and  $|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)| \leq 2|u^i(t+z)|$  in  $\Omega_2^z$ , combining with (61), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z (|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)| \geq 3M)} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx \\ & \leq \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_1^z} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx + \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_2^z} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx \\ & \quad + \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_3^z} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx \\ & \leq 2^r \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \left( \int_{\Omega_t^z (|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z)|^r dx + \int_{\Omega_t^z (|u^i(t+z)| \geq M)} |u^i(t+z)|^r dx \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \int_{\Omega_t^z (|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z)|^r dx + \int_{\Omega_t^z (|u^i(t+z)| \geq M)} |u^i(t+z)|^r dx \right) \\ & \leq 2^{r+2} \cdot 2^{(2r+2)} \varepsilon^r = \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right)^r. \end{aligned} \tag{65}$$

Substituting (64) and (65) into (63), we can deduce that

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \|u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon,$$

which means that  $\mathcal{D}$  has a finite  $\varepsilon$ -net in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$ . □

**Lemma 5.4** *Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a pullback absorbing set in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  ( $r \geq 1$ ). If  $\mathcal{D}$  has a finite  $\varepsilon$ -net in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  ( $r \geq 1$ ) then there exists a positive  $M = M(B, \varepsilon)$ , such that, for any  $u_t(\cdot) \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$ , we can find*

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z (|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z)|^r dx \leq 2^{r+1} \varepsilon^r.$$

*Proof* Since  $\mathcal{D}$  has a finite  $\varepsilon$ -net in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  ( $r \geq 1$ ), for each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , we know that there exist  $u_t^1, \dots, u_t^k \in \mathcal{D}$ , such that, for any  $u_t(\cdot) \in \mathcal{D}$ , we can find some  $u_t^i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq k$ ) satisfying

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z (|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx \leq \varepsilon^r. \tag{66}$$

Simultaneously, for the fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$ , such that, for each  $u_t^i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , we have

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_e |u^i(t+z)|^r dx \leq \varepsilon^r, \tag{67}$$

provided that  $m(e) < \delta$  ( $e \subset \Omega$ ).

On the other hand, since  $\mathcal{D}$  is bounded in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  ( $r \geq 1$ ), for the fixed  $\delta > 0$  above, there exists  $M > 0$ , such that  $m(\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)) < \delta$  holds for each  $u_t \in B$ . So,  $m(\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)) < \delta$  also holds for each  $u_t \in B$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z)|^r dx \\ &= \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z) + u^i(t+z)|^r dx \\ &\leq 2^r \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z) - u^i(t+z)|^r dx \\ &\quad + 2^r \sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u^i(t+z)|^r dx \\ &\leq 2^{r+1} \varepsilon^r. \end{aligned} \tag{68}$$

□

**Lemma 5.5** *For each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and any pullback absorbing set  $\mathcal{D} \in C_{\gamma, L^2(\Omega)}$ , there exist two positive constants  $T_3 = T_3(B, \varepsilon) = \max\{T_1, T_2\}$  and  $M = M(\varepsilon)$ , such that*

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z)|^r dx < C\varepsilon, \quad \text{for any } -z \geq T_3, u_t^0(\cdot) \in \mathcal{D}, \tag{69}$$

where the constant  $C$  is independent of  $\varepsilon$  and  $\mathcal{D}$ .

*Proof* For each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , any fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $e \subset \Omega$  and  $m(e) \leq \delta$ , then

$$\int_e |\phi(x)|^r dx \leq C\varepsilon, \tag{70}$$

where  $\phi(x), g(x) \in L^r(\Omega)$ . Moreover, from Lemmas 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4, we know that there exist  $T = T(\mathcal{D}, \varepsilon) > 0$  and  $M = M(\varepsilon)$ , for each  $-z \geq T, u_t(\cdot) \in \mathcal{D}$ , we have

$$m(\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)) < \min\{\varepsilon, \delta\}, \quad \text{for each } t \in \mathbb{R}, \tag{71}$$

and

$$\sup_{z \in (-\infty, 0]} e^{\gamma z} \int_{\Omega_t^z(|u(t+z)| \geq M)} |u(t+z)|^2 < 8\varepsilon. \tag{72}$$

Thus, we also have

$$\int_{\Omega_t^0(|u(t)| \geq M)} |u(t)|^2 < 8\varepsilon, \quad \text{for } t \in [T, +\infty]. \tag{73}$$

Multiplying (1) by  $(u - M)_+^{r-1}$  and integrating over  $\Omega_t^0 = \Omega_t^0(u > M)$ , we have

$$\int_{\Omega_t^0(u > M)} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} (u - M)_+^{r-1} dx - \int_{\Omega_t^0(u > M)} \Delta u (u - M)_+^{r-1} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \int_{\Omega_t^0(u>M)} \lambda u(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \\
 & = \int_{\Omega_t^0(u>M)} f(t, u_t)(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx + \int_{\Omega_t^0(u>M)} g(t, x)(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{74}$$

After integrating over  $\Omega_t^0(u > M)$ , (74) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{dt} \|(u-M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r - \int_{\Omega_t^0(u>M)} \Delta u(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx + \lambda \int_{\Omega_t^0(u>M)} u(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \\
 & = \int_{\Omega_t^0(u>M)} F(t, u(x, t - \rho(t)))(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx + \int_{\Omega_t^0(|u|>M)} g(t, x)(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \\
 & \quad + \int_{\Omega_t^0(u>M)} \int_{-\infty}^0 |G(s, z, u(s+z))|(u-M)_+^{r-1} dz dx,
 \end{aligned} \tag{75}$$

where

$$(u-M)_+ = \begin{cases} u-M, & u \geq M, \\ 0, & u \leq M. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\Omega_{1,t}^0 = \Omega_t^0(u > M)$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{dt} \|(u-M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r - \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} \Delta u(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx + \lambda \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} u(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \\
 & = \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} F(t, u(x, t - \rho(t)))(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx + \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} g(t, x)(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \\
 & \quad + \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} \int_{-\infty}^0 G(s, z, u(s+z))(u-M)_+^{r-1} dz dx.
 \end{aligned}$$

We now estimate every term of (75). First, we obtain

$$- \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} \Delta u(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx = (r-1) \int_{\Omega_1^0} \nabla u |(u-M)_+|^{r-2} \nabla u dx \geq 0 \tag{76}$$

and

$$\lambda \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} u(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \geq \lambda \|(u-M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r, \tag{77}$$

By the assumption (2), (3), (6) and Young’s inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} F(t, u(x, t - \rho(t)))(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \\
 & \leq \frac{\varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)}}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |F(x, u(x, t - \rho(t)))|^r dx + \frac{(r-1)\varepsilon_1}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} (u-M)_+^r dx \\
 & \leq \frac{\varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)}}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |k_1|^r dx + \frac{K_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)}}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} e^{-r\gamma\rho(t)} |u(x, t - \rho(t))|^r dx
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \frac{(r-1)\varepsilon_1}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} (u-M)_+^r dx \\
 & \leq \frac{\varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)}}{r} |k_1|^r_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)} + \frac{k_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)}}{r} \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_1^0)}}^r + \frac{(r-1)\varepsilon_1}{r} \|(u-M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r, \tag{78} \\
 & \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} \int_{-\infty}^0 G(x,z,u(s+z))(u-M)_+^{r-1} dz dx \\
 & \leq \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} \int_{-\infty}^0 |m_0(z)| |(u-M)_+|^{r-1} dz dx + \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} \int_{-\infty}^0 m_1(z) |u(t+z)(u-M)_+^{r-1} dz dx \\
 & \leq \frac{\varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)}}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |m_0|^r dx + \frac{(r-1)\varepsilon_2}{r} \int_{\Omega_1} (u-M)_+^r dx \\
 & \quad + \frac{\bar{m}_1 \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)}}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |u(t+z)|^r dx + \frac{\bar{m}_1 (r-1)\varepsilon_3}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} (u-M)_+^r dx \\
 & \leq \frac{\varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)}}{r} |m_0|^r_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)} + \frac{(r-1)\varepsilon_2}{r} \|(u-M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r \\
 & \quad + \frac{\bar{m}_1 (r-1)\varepsilon_3}{r} \|u(t+z)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r, \tag{79}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} g(t,x)(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx & \leq \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |g(t,x)|(u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \\
 & \leq \frac{\varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)}}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |g(t,x)|^r dx + \frac{(r-1)\varepsilon_4}{r} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} (u-M)_+^r dx \\
 & \leq \frac{\varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)}}{r} \|g(t,x)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r + \frac{(r-1)\varepsilon_4}{r} \|(u-M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r. \tag{80}
 \end{aligned}$$

Combining with (76)–(80), we can conclude that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{d}{dt} \|(u-M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + r(r-1) \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} \nabla u (u-M)_+^{r-2} \nabla u dx \\
 & \quad + r\lambda \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} u (u-M)_+^{r-1} dx \\
 & \leq \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |k_1|^r dx + \varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |m_0|^r dx \\
 & \quad + (r-1)(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + m_1 \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4) \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} (u-M)_+^r dx \\
 & \quad + k_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} e^{-r\gamma\rho(t)} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |u(x,t-\rho(t))|^r dx \\
 & \quad + m_1 \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} e^{\gamma z} |u(t+z)|^r dx + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \int_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} |g(t,x)|^r dx. \tag{81}
 \end{aligned}$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{d}{dt} \|(u-M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 & \leq -r\lambda \|(u-M)_+\|_r^r + \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} |k_1|^r_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)} + \varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)} |m_0|^r_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + (r - 1)(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + m_1\varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4) \|(u - M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r + k_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r}^r \\
 & + m_1 \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)} \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r}^r + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \|g(t, x)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r.
 \end{aligned} \tag{82}$$

Let  $\alpha > 0$ , which will also be determined later. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{d}{dt} e^{\alpha t} \|(u - M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 & = \alpha e^{\alpha t} \|(u - M)_+\|_r^r + e^{\alpha t} \frac{d}{dt} \|(u - M)_+\|_r^r \\
 & \leq -(r\lambda - \alpha - (r - 1)(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + m_1\varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4)) e^{\alpha t} \|(u - M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r \\
 & \quad + (\varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} |k_1|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r + \varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)} |m_0|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r) e^{\alpha t} + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{\alpha t} \|g(t, x)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r \\
 & \quad + (k_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} + m_1 \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)}) e^{\alpha t} \|u_t\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r}^r.
 \end{aligned} \tag{83}$$

Let  $A = (r\lambda - \alpha - (r - 1)(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + m_1\varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4))$ . By Gronwall’s inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & e^{\alpha t} \|(u - M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega_{t,0}^1)}^r \\
 & \leq e^{-A(t-\tau)} e^{\alpha \tau} \|(u(\tau) - M)_+\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega)}^r}^r + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{-At} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{(A+\alpha)s} \|g(s, x)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r ds \\
 & \quad + (k_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} + m_1 \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)}) e^{-At} \int_{\tau}^t e^{(A+\alpha)s} \|u_s\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r}^r ds \\
 & \quad + (\varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} |k_1|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r + \varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)} |m_0|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r) \frac{e^{\alpha t}}{A + \alpha}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{84}$$

Thanks to (46), and letting  $\alpha_1 > \alpha \geq \alpha^*$ , we can deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (k_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} + m_1 \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)}) e^{-At} \int_{\tau}^t e^{(A+\alpha)s} \|u_s\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega_{t,0}^1)}^r}^r ds \\
 & \leq (k_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} + m_1 \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)}) \left( \frac{r e^{\alpha \tau}}{A} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega_{t,0}^1)}^r}^r + \frac{\alpha C_{\Omega_{t,0}^1} e^{\alpha t}}{(A + \alpha)(\alpha - L)} \right. \\
 & \quad + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \frac{1}{A} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{t,0}^1)}^r ds + \frac{r e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{Lt}}{(A + L)} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega_{t,0}^1)}^r}^r \\
 & \quad \left. + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \frac{e^{Lt}}{(A + L)} \int_{-\infty}^t (e^{(\alpha-L)s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{t,0}^1)}^r) ds \right).
 \end{aligned} \tag{85}$$

Multiplying (84) by  $e^{-\alpha t}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|(u - M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega_{t,0}^1)}^r \\
 & \leq e^{-A(t-\tau)} e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} \|(u(\tau) - M)_+\|_{C_{\gamma,L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r}^r + \frac{\varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} |k_1|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r}{A + \alpha} \\
 & \quad + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{-(A+\alpha)t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{(A+\alpha)s} \|g(s, x)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r ds + \frac{\varepsilon_2^{-(r-1)} |m_0|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r}{A + \alpha}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + (k_2^r \varepsilon_1^{-(r-1)} + m_1 \varepsilon_3^{-(r-1)}) \left( \frac{r e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t}}{A} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}}^r + \frac{\alpha C_{\Omega_{1,t}^0}}{(A + \alpha)(\alpha - L)} \right. \\
 & + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \frac{1}{A} e^{-\alpha t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r ds + \frac{r e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{-(\alpha-L)t}}{(A + L)} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}}^r \\
 & \left. + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} \frac{e^{-(\alpha-L)t}}{(A + L)} \int_{-\infty}^t (e^{(\alpha-L)s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r) ds \right) \\
 & \leq e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} \|(\phi - M)_+\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}}^r + C e^{-(A+\alpha)t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{(A+\alpha)s} \|g(s, x)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r ds \\
 & + Cm(\Omega_{1,t}^0) + C e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}}^r + CC_{\Omega_{1,t}^0} \\
 & + C e^{-\alpha t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r ds + C e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{-(\alpha-L)t} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}}^r \\
 & + C e^{-(\alpha-L)t} \int_{-\infty}^t (e^{(\alpha-L)s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^0)}^r) ds. \tag{86}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now replacing  $t$  by  $t + z$ , similar to the arguments in Lemma 4.1, in view of (45), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & e^{r\gamma z} \|(u_t - M)_+\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}^r \\
 & \leq e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} e^{(r\gamma - \alpha)z} \|(\phi - M)_+\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}}^r + C e^{-(A+\alpha)t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{(A+\alpha)s} \|g(s, x)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}^r ds \\
 & + Cm(\Omega_{1,t}^z) e^{(r\gamma - \alpha)z} + C e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}}^r + CC_{\Omega_{1,t}^z} \\
 & + C e^{-\alpha t} e^{(r\gamma - \alpha)z} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}^r ds + C e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{-(\alpha-L)t} e^{(r\gamma + L - \alpha)z} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}}^r \\
 & + C e^{-(\alpha-L)t} e^{(r\gamma + L - \alpha)z} \int_{-\infty}^t (e^{(\alpha-L)s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}^r) ds. \tag{87}
 \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, by (57) and (70), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|(u_t - M)_+\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}}^r \\
 & \leq e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} \varepsilon + C \varepsilon e^{-(A+\alpha)t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{(A+\alpha)s} ds + C \varepsilon + C e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} \varepsilon + C \varepsilon \\
 & + C e^{-\alpha t} \varepsilon \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\alpha s} ds + C e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{-(\alpha-L)t} \varepsilon + C e^{-(\alpha-L)t} \varepsilon \int_{-\infty}^t e^{(\alpha-L)s} ds \\
 & \leq e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} \varepsilon + C \varepsilon + C \varepsilon + C e^{\alpha \tau} e^{-\alpha t} \varepsilon + C \varepsilon + C \varepsilon + C e^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{-(\alpha-L)t} \varepsilon + C \varepsilon \\
 & \leq C \varepsilon, \tag{88}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha > L$ . Repeating the same steps above, just taking  $(u(t + z) - M)_-$  instead of  $(u(t + z) - M)_+$ , we deduce that

$$\|(u(t + z) - M)_-\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega_{1,t}^z)}}^r \leq C \varepsilon. \tag{89}$$

From (88), (89) and Lemma 5.1, we know the hypotheses of Lemma 5.3 are all satisfied. Therefore the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  generated by Eq. (1) is  $\mathcal{D}$ -pullback  $\omega$ -limit compact.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.6** *Suppose in addition to the hypotheses in Lemma 4.1 that  $g \in C(\mathbb{R}, L^r(\Omega))$ . Then the processes  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  on  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  generated by the solution of Eq. (1) with  $u_0 \in C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$  has the  $\mathcal{D}$ -pullback attractors  $\{\mathcal{A}_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ .*

*Proof* From Theorem 7.1, Lemmas 4.1, 5.1 and 5.5, now for every bounded subset  $B$  in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$ , the process generated by Eq. (1) has the pullback attractors in  $C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}$ .  $\square$

**6 Uniform estimates in  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$**

Let semigroup  $e^{At}$  has the following higher smooth effect [19]:

$$\|e^{At}x\|_{E_r^\beta} \leq Mt^{-(\beta-\alpha)}e^{-\delta t}\|x\|_{E_r^\alpha}, \quad x \in E_r^\beta, t > 0, 0 \leq \alpha \leq \beta, 0 < \delta < \lambda_1. \tag{90}$$

**Lemma 6.1** *Suppose the conditions of Lemma 4.1 hold and*

$$\alpha < r(\delta - \eta) \leq r\gamma, \quad r > 2, \tag{91}$$

*holds, the family of processes  $\{U_g(t, \tau)\}$  is uniformly dissipative in  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$ , where  $g(x, t) \in L^r_{loc}(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\Omega))$ ,  $\eta > 0$  will be determined later.*

*Proof* Choosing  $\alpha_1$  with  $\alpha < \alpha_1$  and using (46), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\tau}^t e^{-\alpha_1(t-s)} \|u_s\|_{C_{L^r(\Omega)}}^r ds \\ & \leq \int_{\tau}^t e^{-\alpha_1(t-s)} \left( re^{\alpha\tau} e^{-\alpha s} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - L} C_{\Omega} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{-\alpha s} \int_{-\infty}^s e^{\alpha l} \|g(l)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r dl + re^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{(L-\alpha)s} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \varepsilon_4^{-(r-1)} e^{(L-\alpha)s} \int_{-\infty}^s e^{(\alpha-L)l} \|g(l)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r dl \right) ds \\ & \leq \frac{C}{\alpha_1 - \alpha} e^{\alpha\tau} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r + C + \frac{C}{\alpha_1 - \alpha} e^{-\alpha t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\alpha s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ & \quad + \frac{Ce^{(\alpha-L)\tau} e^{(L-\alpha)t}}{\alpha_1 - \alpha + L} \|\phi\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r + \frac{Ce^{(L-\alpha)t}}{\alpha_1 - \alpha + L} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{(\alpha-L)s} \|g(s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \\ & \triangleq Q(\alpha_1, \alpha, L, \tau, \phi, g_0, t). \end{aligned} \tag{92}$$

It is obvious that  $Q(\alpha_1, \alpha, L, \tau, \phi, g_0, t)$  is bounded, as  $\tau \rightarrow -\infty$ . From the well-posedness of (1), we know that the solution of (1) satisfies

$$u(t) = e^{A(t-\tau)}u(\tau) + \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)}[-\lambda u + f(x, u_s) + g(x, s)] ds. \tag{93}$$

Therefore, using (90) and choosing  $\alpha_1 > 0, \eta > 0, q = \frac{r}{r-1} < 2, r > 2$  such that  $0 < \alpha < r(\delta - \eta) = \alpha_1 < r\gamma$ , for each  $t \geq \tau$  we obtain

$$\|u(t)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} = \left\| e^{A(t-\tau)}u(\tau) + \int_{\tau}^t e^{A(t-s)}[-\lambda u + f(x, u_s) + g(x, s)] ds \right\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq \|e^{A(t-\tau)}u(\tau)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} + \lambda \int_{\tau}^t \|e^{A(t-s)}u\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} ds \\
 &\quad + \int_{\tau}^t \|e^{A(t-s)}f(x, u_s)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} ds + \int_{\tau}^t \|e^{A(t+z-s)}g(x, s)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} ds \\
 &\leq M_1 e^{-\delta(t-\tau)} \|u(\tau)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} + \lambda M_2 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \|u\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\
 &\quad + M_3 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \|F(s, u(s-\rho(s)))\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\
 &\quad + M_4 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \left\| \int_{-\infty}^0 G(s, z, u(s+z)) dz \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\
 &\quad + M_5 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \|g(x, s)\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds. \tag{94}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then, by (46), (92), Hold’s inequality and Young’s inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\lambda M_2 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \|u\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\
 &\leq \lambda M_2 \left( \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}q} e^{-q\eta(t-s)} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \times \left( \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \|u\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\
 &\leq \frac{\lambda M_2}{q} \left( \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}q} e^{-q\eta(t-s)} ds \right) + \frac{\lambda M_2}{r} \left( \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \|u\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{\lambda M_2 \Gamma(1-\frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + \frac{\lambda M_2}{r} \left( \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \|u\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{\lambda M_2 \Gamma(1-\frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + \frac{\lambda M_2}{r} Q(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, \phi, g_0, t) \\
 &\triangleq \frac{\lambda M_2 \Gamma(1-\frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + R_{2,W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, \phi, g_0, t). \tag{95}
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, combining (2), (3), and (6), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &M_3 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \|F(x, u(s-\rho(s)))\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\
 &\leq M_3 \left( \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}q} e^{-q\eta(t-s)} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \times \left( \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \|F\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\
 &\leq \frac{M_3}{q} \left( \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}q} e^{-q\eta(t-s)} ds \right) + \frac{M_3}{r} \left( \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \|F\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{M_3 \Gamma(1-\frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + \frac{M_3}{r} \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} (k_1^r \|\Omega\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + k_2^r e^{-r\gamma\rho(t)} \|u(s-\rho(s))\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r) ds \\
 &\leq \frac{M_3 \Gamma(1-\frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + \frac{M_3 k_1^r \|\Omega\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r}{r^2(\delta-\eta)} + \frac{k_2^r M_3}{r} Q(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, \phi, g_0, h, t) \\
 &\triangleq \frac{M_3 \Gamma(1-\frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + \frac{M_3 k_1^r \|\Omega\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r}{r^2(\delta-\eta)} + R_{3,W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, \phi, g_0, t), \tag{96}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & M_4 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \left\| \int_{-\infty}^0 G(s, z, u(s+z)) dz \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\
 & \leq M_4 \left( \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}q} e^{-q\eta(t-s)} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 & \quad \times \left( \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \left\| \int_{-\infty}^0 (m_0(z) + m_1(z)|u(s+z_0)|) dz \right\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\
 & \leq \frac{M_4 \Gamma(1 - \frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + \frac{M_4}{r} \left( m_0^r |\Omega|^r \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} ds + m_1^r \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \|u_s\|_{C_{\gamma, L^r(\Omega)}}^r ds \right) \\
 & \triangleq \frac{M_4 \Gamma(1 - \frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + \frac{2^{r-1} M_4 m_0^r |\Omega|^r}{r^2(\delta-\eta)} + R_{4, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, \phi, g_0, t), \tag{97}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\tau}^t \|e^{A(t-s)} g(x, s)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} ds \\
 & \leq M_5 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \|g\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\
 & \leq M_5 \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} e^{-\delta(t-s)} \|g\|_{L^r(\Omega)} ds \\
 & \leq M_5 \left( \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-q\delta(t-s)} ds \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \times \left( \int_{\tau}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \|g\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \\
 & \leq \frac{M_5}{q} \left( \int_{\tau}^t (t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-q\delta(t-s)} ds \right) + \frac{M_5}{r} \left( \int_{-\infty}^t e^{-r(\delta-\eta)(t-s)} \|g\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r ds \right) \\
 & \triangleq \frac{M_5 \Gamma(1 - \frac{q}{2})}{q^{2-\frac{1}{2}q} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}q}} + R_{5, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, q, g, t). \tag{98}
 \end{aligned}$$

Similar to the arguments in Lemma 4.1, for each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , we can conclude that by (91)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sup_{z \in [-\infty, 0]} e^{-r\gamma z} \|u(t+z)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \\
 & \leq M_1 e^{-\delta(t-\tau)} \|u(\tau)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} + \frac{(\lambda M_2 + M_3 + M_4 + M_5) \Gamma(1 - \frac{r}{2})}{r^{2-\frac{1}{2}r} \eta^{1-\frac{1}{2}r}} \\
 & \quad + R_{2, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, \phi, g_0, t) + \frac{M_3 k_1^r |\Omega|^r}{r^2(\delta-\eta)} \\
 & \quad + R_{3, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \phi, \tau, g_0, t) + \frac{2^{r-1} M_4 m_0^r |\Omega|^r}{r^2(\delta-\eta)} \\
 & \quad + R_{4, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, \phi, g_0, t) + R_{5, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, q, g, t) \\
 & \triangleq R_{6, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}(r(\delta-\eta), \tau, r, \phi, g_0, t), \quad \text{for each } t \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{99}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we can see that  $\sup_{z \in [-\infty, 0]} e^{-r\gamma z} \|u(t+z)\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$  is bounded, for each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $z \in (-\infty, 0]$ , as  $\tau \rightarrow -\infty$ , which implies the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  has pullback absorbing sets in  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$ . □

### 7 Existence of the pullback attractors in $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$

**Theorem 7.1** *Suppose in addition to the hypotheses in Lemma 6.1 and  $g(s) \in C(\mathbb{R}, W^{1,r}(\Omega))$ ,  $F \in C^1(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $G \in C^1(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}$ ,  $\frac{\partial G}{\partial x}$  are both bounded. Then the processes  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  on  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$  generated by the solution of Eq. (1) with  $\phi \in C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$  has the pullback attractors  $\mathcal{A}_{C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}}$ .*

*Proof* We divide the proof into three steps.

Step 1. Taking gradient operator  $\nabla$  to act on (1), we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \nabla u}{\partial t} - \Delta \nabla u + \lambda \nabla u &= \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial u} \nabla u(t - \rho(t), x) + \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} dz \\ &+ \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{\partial G}{\partial u} \nabla u(t + z, x) dz + \nabla g(t, x). \end{aligned} \tag{100}$$

Multiplying (100) by  $|\nabla u|^{r-2} \nabla u$  and integrating by parts, we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{dt} \|\nabla u(t)\|_{L^r(\Omega)}^r + \frac{4(r-1)}{r^2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(|\nabla u(t)|^{\frac{r}{2}})|^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} \lambda |\nabla u(t)|^r dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} |\nabla u(t)|^{r-2} \nabla u(t) dx + \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial F}{\partial u} \nabla u(t - \rho(t), x) |\nabla u|^{r-2} \nabla u dx \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} |\nabla u(t)|^{r-2} \nabla u(t) dz dx + \int_{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{\partial G}{\partial u} \nabla u(t + z, x) |\nabla u|^{r-2} \nabla u dz dx \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} \nabla g(t, x) |\nabla u(t)|^{r-2} \nabla u(t) dx. \end{aligned} \tag{101}$$

By the same arguments as Lemma 4.1, we also obtain the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  generating by (100) has pullback absorbing sets in  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$ .

Step 2. According to Theorem 15 [10], Eq. (1) has a pullback attractor  $\mathcal{A}_{C_{\gamma, H^1(\Omega)}}$ . Hence, by the same arguments as Theorem 5.6, we also obtain the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  generating by Eq. (100) on  $C_{\gamma, L^2(\Omega)}$  is  $\omega$ -limit compact.

Step 3. Combining step 1, step 2, and Lemma 6.1, as the proof of Theorem 5.6, we find that the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  generated by Eq. (100) on  $C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}$  has pullback absorbing sets and is  $\mathcal{D}$  pullback  $\omega$ -limit compact. Thus, we know from Theorem 5.6 the process  $\{U(t, \tau)\}$  generating by Eq. (1) has the pullback attractors  $\mathcal{A}_{C_{\gamma, W^{1,r}(\Omega)}}$ . □

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#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Authors' contributions

All authors read and approved the final manuscript. YR finished the manuscript and JL made the content correction and English language checking.

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